

**ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW
#368**

**SABURO SAKAI
JAPANESE ZERO PILOT, SURVIVOR**

**INTERVIEWED ON
OCTOBER 19, 1993**

TRANSCRIBED BY:

CARA KIMURA

FEBRUARY 7, 2005

**USS *ARIZONA* MEMORIAL
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
ORAL HISTORY COLLECTION**

?: October 19, 1993, interview with Zero pilot, Saburo Sakai,
Tokyo, Japan.

(Taping stops, then resumes)

(Conversation in Japanese)

?: Also, I brought your book.

(Conversation in Japanese)

?: I have an English version at home. I also brought you
_____...

(Conversation in Japanese)

?: Name cards here and there and everywhere.

(Conversation in Japanese)

?: Oh, thank you very much. It's an English name card. Oh!
Excellent. Is this your number, V108 or V128?

(Conversation in Japanese)

?: Oh, he had many different numbers.

(Conversation in Japanese)

?: Is it okay if I set up the movie camera for a short interview?

(Conversation in Japanese)

Translator: It's okay.

(Conversation in Japanese)

?: I have some coffee for you. I don't know if he drinks coffee
or not. Maybe not. Please.

(Conversation in Japanese)

Translator: Your grandmother is Japanese?

?: Grandfather. (Conversation in Japanese)

(Conversation in Japanese)

Translator: Your name is Yoshida?

?: Yes.

Translator: _____

?: Oh.

Translator: _____

?: Oh. I didn't know. My father is very old, eighty-two. Bad hearing.

Translator: I told you, I sent a message _____.

?: Lucky, my father is bad at hearing. His hearing is so bad. Eighty-two. But Sakai-*san* looks very fit and healthy and vibrant.

(Conversation in Japanese)

Translator: Exercise every day. He is seventy-seven already.

?: Okay, I have to set this up. Few minutes. A little bit of a hassle.

(Conversation in Japanese)

Translator: Your mother came from Germany or...?

?: No, my father is Italian-Irish from...

(Conversation in Japanese)

?: ...from Pennsylvania.

Translator: Grandfather is Japanese?

?: Japanese.

(Conversation in Japanese)

?: So he came to Hawaii, worked in the sugar fields but because he had a special kind of Japanese name, they gave him the better jobs, _____ engineer. Is there a plug I can use or...?

(Conversation in Japanese)

Translator: No.

(Conversation in Japanese)

?: This is one big, one small...

(Conversation in Japanese)

?: Oh. Thank you very much. I'll have to put this far away
because it has a _____.

(Conversation in Japanese)

?: Hope he doesn't mind. I know that silence is golden, but...

Translator: Yeah, that's okay.

?: It's okay.

(Conversation in Japanese)

?: Need you to move back over there.

Yoshizawa, I'll have to get you in the picture too.

(Pause)

(Conversation in Japanese)

?: Okay, I think it's all set.

(Conversation in Japanese)

?: I have his very first book that came out in English here and

_____...

(Conversation in Japanese)

?: I only had paperbacks as a little boy.

(Conversation in Japanese)

?: I don't have...

(Conversation in Japanese)

?: Oh, English? It's all in English. Oh. What year was this?

(Conversation in Japanese)

?: Nineteen fifty-seven.

(Conversation in Japanese)

?: No, much later than this. Much later.

(Conversation in Japanese)

?: This is a collector's item.

(Conversation in Japanese)

?: Okay, I think maybe I have this one.

(Conversation in Japanese)

Translator: Do you have this one?

?: I think I have this one. This one just came out last year, two years.

(Conversation in Japanese)

?: Two years ago.

(Conversation in Japanese)

?: So I think...

(Conversation in Japanese)

?: The Naval Institute, I think I have this one.

(Conversation in Japanese)

Translator: Oh, this is original.

?: This is the original, nineteen...

Translator: Oldest.

?: Nineteen fifty-seven. Hmm.

(Conversation in Japanese)

?: Still recognize his looks a little. Very...

(Conversation in Japanese)

?: Air base, China.

(Conversation in Japanese)

?: So it's translated, his book is many different languages.

(Conversation in Japanese)

Translator: Except for the Soviet, Russian.

?: Except, oh, really? Oh, I would like to ask some historical questions. I mean, he's been asked so many questions

before, I hope my questions are of equal importance. He also flew the Cloud before the war, before the Zero?

Translator: Cloud?

?: Cloud, A-5 type? A-5 type of fighter plane. So before his Zero, he flew...

(Conversation in Japanese)

?: Cloud, yes. See, his first airplane he flew would be Cloud.

(Conversation in Japanese)

Translator: Four years.

?: Four years in China?

Translator: In China.

?: So how many...

Translator: Not only China, in domestic land of Japan too.

?: So in China, how many kills did he have?

(Conversation in Japanese)

?: With the Cloud?

(Conversation in Japanese)

?: I-15, I-16 type?

Translator: Just one.

?: Just one.

(Conversation in Japanese)

Translator: And the attack was land, _____.

?: So he was a more land attack or...?

(Conversation in Japanese)

?: On the ground? On the airfields?

Translator: China, Chinese _____.

?: So when did he first get into a Zero type?

(Conversation in Japanese)

Translator: Nineteen-fifteen. No, no, '35.

(Conversation in Japanese)

?: Nineteen-forty then.

Translator: The war starts 1940. So five years ago, that's what,
1935.

?: You started flying 1935.

Translator: Of Zero.

?: Zero came out in 1940 though.

(Conversation in Japanese)

?: Thirty-nine was a prototype...

(Conversation in Japanese)

Translator: No, no. Zero.

(Conversation in Japanese)

Translator: No, no, 1934.

?: Zero.

SS: Yeah, Zero.

?: Or Cloud? See, Cloud was '34.

(Conversation in Japanese)

?: Zero, *sen* is Zero.

(Conversation in Japanese)

?: So, *Showa jyu-yon* or *jyu-go* [Showa era, year 14 or 15]?

Translator: No, *jyu-yonnen* [fourteen].

?: *Jyu-yonnen*.

(Conversation in Japanese)

?: Thirty-nine, 1939 then.

Translator: Nineteen-thirty...

?: *Showa*...

(Conversation in Japanese)

Translator: Nineteen-thirty-five.

?: I was reading in the book, the Zero was adopted in *Showa jyu-go* [Showa era, year 15], Zero. Zero.

Translator: So 1935.

?: So maybe 1940, 1940. *Showa jyu-go* is '40. *Jyu-roku* is '41.

Yeah, '40. I would like to ask if Zeros, how close would be the accurate good range to fire cannon and 7.7. Was it a long distance, like 900 meters, 400 meters, or 100 meters?

(Conversation in Japanese)

Translator: Within 100 meters.

?: Within 100 meters.

Translator: Accurate distance to shoot.

(Conversation in Japanese)

Translator: Or seventy meters.

?: Seventy meters.

(Conversation in Japanese)

Translator: Too close not so good.

(Conversation in Japanese)

?: Too close, not so, because of pieces, yeah? Fly back at you?

So of all the fighter plane pilots he has known, including
Nishizawa, was there anybody with long-range firing who
had the skill for long-range type of firing, maybe 500...

(Conversation in Japanese)

?: They're all close-range...

(Conversation in Japanese)

Translator: Within, at the most, at least 200 meters.

(Conversation in Japanese)

Translator: He instructed Nishizawa.

(Conversation in Japanese)

?: He instructed Nishizawa?

Translator: Yeah.

?: I thought Nishizawa was older.

(Conversation in Japanese)

Translator: Nishizawa five years younger than him.

?: Oh!

(Conversation in Japanese)

Translator: He teaches...

?: Oh! (Chuckles) I didn't know that! I thought Nishizawa was older.

Translator: No.

(Conversation in Japanese)

?: Oh, I see. So he instructed Nishizawa? Of all your wingmen, which was the best wingman, in your opinion?

(Conversation in Japanese)

Translator: So many, I don't know. They were frequent, change.

?: To train them and so forth. Interesting. Of the many types of fighters you had to face in combat, American fighters—Wildcat, Hellcat—which was the most difficult to fight, most difficult fighter?

(Conversation in Japanese)

?: P-38?

(Conversation in Japanese)

?: Hellcat?

(Conversation in Japanese)

?: Navy Hellcat.

(Conversation in Japanese)

?: Mustang.

SS: *Hai* [yes].

?: Army Mustang.

SS: Army *wa* number one.

?: Mustang was number one.

(Conversation in Japanese)

?: Did he get to fly which models? Model twenty-one, thirty-two and fifty-two, the three main models.

(Conversation in Japanese)

Translator: Mustang.

?: No, no, Zeros, of the types and models, *nijyu-ichi*, *sanjyu-ni* and *gojyu-ni* [twenty-one, thirty-two and fifty-two]. Or did he fly all three?

(Conversation in Japanese)

Translator: Best one, twenty-one.

?: The best one?

SS: *Hai*.

?: Not *go-ni* [five-two]?

SS: No.

?: Oh.

(Conversation in Japanese)

?: The original. Why is that? Why is the older, the earliest one better?

(Conversation in Japanese)

Translator: Maybe getting rust some parts, so originally much better.

?: Oh. The original version was much better.

Translator: Not _____.

(Conversation in Japanese)

Translator: So main function concerns, original is much better.

?: The original.

Translator: Maybe fifty-two is like a twenty-meter gun.

?: Two twenty-millimeter and two 12.7.

Translator: Yeah, that is a specialty but _____, best.

?: The best Zero.

Translator: Best one.

(Conversation in Japanese)

Translator: So install a twenty-meter...

?: Twenty-millimeter cannons.

Translator: ...seventeen or all combined, that is, _____
made mistake.

(Conversation in Japanese)

Translator: American, 0.7 or six.

(Conversation in Japanese)

?: Same.

(Conversation in Japanese)

Translator: You don't _____.

(Conversation in Japanese)

?: Different arcs of fire. So he would've recommended maybe
four 12.7s instead of...

Translator: 7.7.

?: Well, four 12.7s instead of two twenty-millimeter and two 7.7s? So all one type. So he would prefer that then, four 12.7s?

(Conversation in Japanese)

Translator: American way of system is much better.

?: Much better.

(Conversation in Japanese)

Translator: That is common sense, but generally speaking, twenty-meter, much power than 7.7, doesn't hit correct. Doesn't aim _____.

?: Oh, hard to fire shorter, huh? Twenty millimeter?

Translator: Incorrect. Not accurate. So he prefer 7.7. So
_____ pilots...

?: For 7.7? It's not underpowered though? The bullets
wouldn't penetrate the...

(Conversation in Japanese)

Translator: Not one, single.

?: So volume...

(Conversation in Japanese)

Translator: Go hit to the same place, continuously.

?: 7.7?

Translator: Yeah.

?: Or the twenty-millimeter?

Translator: Seven.

?: 7.7.

(Conversation in Japanese)

Translator: _____ training one type, fifty-two type.

(Conversation in Japanese)

Translator: Twenty-one type _____ technique type.

(Conversation in Japanese)

Translator: Fifty-two _____, different pilot. They hit
American.

(Conversation in Japanese)

Translator: Dogfight.

(Conversation in Japanese)

Translator: So twenty-one...

?: The type twenty-one, the model twenty-one...

Translator: Regardless of technique, _____ go. But over
_____ victory against the American. Not the
fifty-two. Not the _____ type pilots, so that means training
one type airplane, Zero, much better...

?: Than a fifty-two.

Translator: ...than fifty-two.

(Conversation in Japanese)

Translator: Nobody knows, very few people knows of this fact.

(Conversation in Japanese)

Translator: _____ originally _____ of Zero.

Also compass, that training, one type, is far much better
than...

(Conversation in Japanese)

Translator: _____ people didn't realize, just simply
thought twenty meter much...

?: Well, it had explosive shells. One hit, it exploded.

Translator: Yes, but very hard to hit.

?: Hard to hit.

Translator: That's why, 7.7.

?: Is it overall better.

Translator: Better, better, total points.

(Conversation in Japanese)

Translator: Zero type _____ always _____. Not so
excellent though.

(Conversation in Japanese)

Translator: Just attack only, no different.

(Conversation in Japanese)

Translator: The same.

(Conversation in Japanese)

Translator: So when the war broke, _____ twenty-meter
success on the dogfight. Not the Zero, but the _____,
veteran pilot.

?: Better training.

Translator: Yeah, better. After it was a different pilot.

(Conversation in Japanese)

Translator: Zeros were nothing _____ type just against
the B-17 or B-29, doesn't work.

?: Doesn't work. Just pure fighter against fighter.

(Conversation in Japanese)

Translator: So Zero was, they afraid of Zero. Just right after the war, maybe one year or so.

(Conversation in Japanese)

Translator: Because pilot excellent.

?: Excellent training.

(Conversation in Japanese)

Translator: Cloud is much stronger when it's just a competition or special training exercise, against Zero and _____ . Cloud was...

?: Slower. But it was a very slow plane compared to...

(Conversation in Japanese)

?: In dogfighting and turning it would be better than a Cloud.

(Conversation in Japanese)

Translator: Very, very few people knows...

?: Comparison between a Cloud and a Zero. Interesting. Oh, I didn't know that. Very interesting.

(Conversation in Japanese)

Translator: This will be in English. I have book of this one.

(Conversation in Japanese)

Translator: English, yeah, this one, so you can read it later.

?: I will pick it up...

Translator: This is more interesting. This is complete record,
perfect record. Quite interesting.

?: What is his best—two questions—best attacking tactic and
what's the best defense tactic that he used?

(Conversation in Japanese)

?: Fighter to fighter.

(Conversation in Japanese)

Translator: So this thing is cut fast, longer distance.

?: Oh, to identify, to see with your vision, to see your opponent.
The most important skill to have.

(Conversation in Japanese)

Translator: Recognize the enemy under...

(Conversation in Japanese)

Translator: So certain things he doesn't need to use dogfights

_____.

?: Oh, so once he sees the opponent at long distance...

Translator: That's right. So no need to...

?: Dogfight into it?

Translator: That's very important.

?: So when he attacks though, was it better from the side, from the top, from the tail, or...?

(Conversation in Japanese)

Translator: I'm not a veteran pilot, not good skill.

?: So would he hit and run then, come back? Hit and dive away? Was that...?

(Conversation in Japanese)

Translator: Doesn't hit.

?: So best to come in and leave?

Translator: Yeah.

(Conversation in Japanese)

Translator: This is Nishigawa's...

(Conversation in Japanese)

Translator: This is Nishizawa's, Lieutenant Sasai's report to his father from the...

(Conversation in Japanese)

Translator: From _____. He was the commander, sent a letter to his father.

"My subordinate named Saburo Sakai, the sergeant, he shot down over fifty. He has a sharp eye, just like god or divine.

_____ my excellent success due to his

_____ your enemy plane."

?: Sharp eyes.

Translator: (Reading) I was rescued. I was _____ by his training _____ ability or capability, just like nearly dozen of times. He has the personality and the technique while much better, the treasure of the entire naval force fighter squadron. I shot down also fifty-four within this month, or by the end of next month I will over..."

(Conversation in Japanese)

Translator: (Reading) "And I, dogfight, I was shot by the enemy airplane only two times."

?: Shot down?

Translator: No, no, shot my airplane. Never hit.

"So I believe my friend, the enemy, their bullets, never go through to my airplane by his great hit."

?: So who is this wrote that?

Translator: This is Lieutenant Sasai. He is squadron commander.

?: Squadron Commander Sasai.

Translator: Sasai.

(Conversation in Japanese)

Translator: He became the...

?: Famous ace also.

Translator: ...lieutenant commander when he was _____
promoted two ranks, _____.

?: Oh.

(Conversation in Japanese)

Translator: The best one graduated from naval academy,
exceptionally few.

(Conversation in Japanese)

?: He, Sasai, graduated from naval academy?

Translator: Yes.

?: So he was an exceptional officer?

(Conversation in Japanese)

?: Can you describe him? Was he a tall man, short man, heavy
man?

(Conversation in Japanese)

Translator: Same, same.

?: Same.

Translator: Same constitution.

(Conversation in Japanese)

?: More heavyweight than bomber, I mean, B-29.

(Conversation in Japanese)

?: So see him and then what do you do?

(Conversation in Japanese)

?: Hit and run? Wow!

(Conversation in Japanese)

?: So what happens in defensive? Somebody see, you see him,
he's attacking you, what would be a good, what's a good
maneuver to escape?

(Conversation in Japanese)

Translator: Rolling over.

?: Snap right.

(Conversation in Japanese)

?: Turn right. See, he prefers the right turn over the left turn?

(Conversation in Japanese)

?: Left turn is better.

(Conversation in Japanese)

Translator: Hard to do.

?: Turn on the right, because of propeller torque.

SS: Yes.

?: Oh.

(Conversation in Japanese)

Translator: Maybe ninety-five percent of pilots is right arm...

(Conversation in Japanese)

?: So right arm easier to pull across the left.

(Conversation in Japanese)

?: Oh. Turn this way, ah, so. So the foot pedal and all!

(Laughs)

(Conversation in Japanese)

?: How many Gs could he pull? They call g-force?

(Conversation in Japanese)

(Laughter)

?: Five Gs, oh.

(Conversation in Japanese)

?: Yeah.

(Conversation in Japanese)

?: So of all the planes, a P-38, Wildcat, P-38, Hellcat, Mustang, which did he shoot down more of or bomb? Can he remember?

(Conversation in Japanese)

?: P-40 maybe?

(Conversation in Japanese)

Translator: P-40.

?: P-40s more.

(Conversation in Japanese)

Translator: Thirty-nine.

?: Thirty-nine.

(Conversation in Japanese)

?: Wildcat.

SS: *Hai.*

(Conversation in Japanese)

?: About...

SS: Seven Hellcat.

?: Seven Hellcats! Wow! Any Mustangs?

(Conversation in Japanese)

?: No. P-38?

(Conversation in Japanese)

?: P-38 is easy then?

(Conversation in Japanese)

?: Germans said the same thing, the P-38 was easy to send
green pilots to get training.

(Conversation in Japanese)

?: Good speed, but no dogfighting.

(Conversation in Japanese)

(Laughter)

?: So did he ever get to fly to Shinjinkai? No? _____, in the war. Did you have a chance to fly?

(Conversation in Japanese)

Translator: Just a test pilot for the Shinjinkai, _____.

?: Oh. So at the end of the war, despite his wound, did he get a chance to fight with the Shinjinkai?

(Conversation in Japanese)

Translator: _____ not so good action.

?: Oh, really?

SS: *Hai.*

Translator: Zero is...

?: So there's a, so an officer named Moto-san shot down six Hellcats and one _____ over his airbase, I think, in Kyushu.

(Conversation in Japanese)

?: Very famous, six in one, four twenty-millimeter cannons on the Shinjinkai.

(Conversation in Japanese)

Translator: So, he's an exceptional existence, Kaneyoshi Mito. The rest are ordinary fighters, can't do that.

(Conversation in Japanese)

Translator: He was one of the most respectable pilots, Kaneyoshi Mito.

?: He was killed though, later, I think.

Translator: Yeah.

(Conversation in Japanese)

?: In one of his books, he mentions over the Philippines, attacking a B-17, famous B-17, the first B-17, Collins Kelly.

Translator: Yes.

?: Collins Kelly's plane, which way did you attack? From this way, from this way, this way? Collins Kelly's B-17?

(Conversation in Japanese)

Translator: Oh, there's so many Zero.

?: Oh, many Zeroes attacking?

(Conversation in Japanese)

Translator: Final shot _____ by him.

(Conversation in Japanese)

Translator: Not completely shot, was not shot down.

?: Not shot down?

(Conversation in Japanese)

Translator: He will show you how. He will show you the sketch.

(Conversation in Japanese)

Translator: Finally he shot down...

(Conversation in Japanese)

Translator: ...in a cloud.

(Conversation in Japanese)

Translator: And they _____ to see.

(Conversation in Japanese)

Translator: After the war, then found out that he was shot down.

?: Oh, he crashed? So he didn't shoot him 'til he crashed and
fired and all that? So the bomber escaped into the clouds?

(Conversation in Japanese)

Translator: He'll show you the sketch.

(Conversation in Japanese)

Translator: From Philippines, he received that kind of sketch.

(Conversation in Japanese)

Translator: He'll show you now.

(Conversation in Japanese)

Translator: But historically, one event...

(Conversation in Japanese)

?: The first B-17 shot down _____ the rest of the war.

(Conversation in Japanese)

Translator: In the presence of that scene, he's only the survivor.

(Conversation in Japanese)

Translator: Too many funny stories _____. He's only the eyewitness.

?: Oh, so the wreckage of Captain Collins Kelly's, Collin Kelly Junior's bomber was sought in early January of '42 in the village of PEE-CALL, MAH-BAH-LAH-CUT.

(Conversation in Japanese)

?: PAN-TON-GA, Philippines. Looks like the whole _____ is gouged out, weeds growing through it and a big gouge in the midsection, dorsal area. So it kind of crashed like this? So it didn't dive.

(Conversation in Japanese)

Translator: The rest, run away, dive, parachute.

?: Oh, they parachuted out?

Translator: Except this one.

(Conversation in Japanese)

?: Oh, interesting.

(Conversation in Japanese)

?: If the, in air tactics, how important was it to use the sun
behind your back to attack? Was the sun a primary...?

(Conversation in Japanese)

Translator: Against a bomber or what?

?: Bomber or fighter.

(Conversation in Japanese)

Translator: No, no relation.

(Conversation in Japanese)

Translator: Maybe against sun, easy to find out your enemy, but
actual combat...

(Conversation in Japanese)

?: So he wouldn't position himself with the sun at his back into
the eyes of the defender?

(Conversation in Japanese)

?: Too much movement.

Translator: I never, always against me, always moving.

(Conversation in Japanese)

?: Targets always moving around. So you have a number of shells, 7.7 and twenty-millimeter shell in a glass case.

(Conversation in Japanese)

?: Is this the Japanese type of twenty-millimeter or *Zero-sen* twenty-millimeter? Oh.

(Conversation in Japanese)

Translator: This is American.

?: Oh, American.

(Conversation in Japanese)

Translator: But same, same.

?: Same type, twenty-millimeter.

Translator: Same.

(Conversation in Japanese)

?: Fifty caliber, 12.7s.

(Conversation in Japanese)

?: Thirty caliber.

Translator: He likes this one.

(Conversation in Japanese)

Translator: Only forty-nine bullets.

?: Only forty-nine!

(Conversation in Japanese)

?: All gone.

(Conversation in Japanese)

Translator: Run away, _____.

(Conversation in Japanese)

?: That or velocity.

(Conversation in Japanese)

?: Oh, here's a live primer!

(Conversation in Japanese)

?: Oh, it's a live primer one too. I thought it was just...

(Conversation in Japanese)

?: So he would've preferred a Zero type, a Model Twenty-one with four 7.7s instead of two 7.7s and two twenty-millimeter cannons?

Translator: Yeah.

?: Or instead of two twenty-millimeter, you would've had two more 7.7? You would've preferred that?

(Conversation in Japanese) (SS says yes.)

?: Oh.

(Conversation in Japanese)

Translator: Doesn't hit correctly. Makes no difference.

?: Yeah, so you just gotta have everything...

Translator: Power is okay.

(Conversation in Japanese)

Translator: That is my impression.

(Conversation in Japanese)

?: But 7.7, did it have explosive head. No? Yes or no?

Explosive head? Bah!

(Conversation in Japanese)

?: I know twenty-millimeter had explosive head...

Translator: Yes, yes.

?: But the 7.7, no, huh?

Translator: No, no.

(Conversation in Japanese)

Translator: You imagine, fifty or hundred, same target.

(Conversation in Japanese)

Translator: Not machine gun. Bah! Explosion.

?: It's the volume. Oh!

Translator: Twenty meter, once hit...

(Conversation in Japanese)

(Laughter)

(Conversation in Japanese)

Translator: He installed different type of machine gun.

?: So all one type, American style.

Translator: Same function.

(Conversation in Japanese)

Translator: That is biggest mistake of Zeroes.

?: Dr. Horikoshi mentioned he had wished he, Sakai's engine was a little stronger. It would've been, also, a very good thing to have.

(Conversation in Japanese)

Translator: So spend more gas that's why.

?: Eats more gas.

Translator: Distance was not so far.

?: Range would be...

(Conversation in Japanese)

Translator: The biggest advantage of Zero, he strongly believe,
the distance is too long. That's best advantage of Zero.

?: Oh, long range.

Translator: Long range.

?: Yes, he mentioned in his book, he could make, fly 800
kilometers one-way. How was...

(Conversation in Japanese)

Translator: Easy.

SS: One thousand.

Translator: One thousand kilometers.

?: He must've, what would've been the best cruising speed to get this kind of range?

(Conversation in Japanese)

?: Hundred knots?

(Conversation in Japanese)

?: Hundred-twenty knots?

(Conversation in Japanese)

Translator: Hundred-forty.

?: Hundred-forty knots and he could make 1000 kilometers?

(Conversation in Japanese)

?: Wow! Incredible range. What was the best fighting altitude? One thousand to five thousand meters...?

(Conversation in Japanese)

Translator: Between 3000...

?: Three thousand to four thousand meters. So the best fighting...

(Conversation in Japanese)

Translator: They can save gas.

?: For distance, 4000 meters. So the best dog fighting, though, 3000 to 4000, altitude?

(Conversation in Japanese)

?: No, to fight dog fighting?

(Conversation in Japanese)

Translator: Thirty-two hundred meters.

?: Thirty-two hundred meters.

(Conversation in Japanese)

Translator: Horsepower.

?: The best horsepower is about that.

Translator: Thirty-two hundred, 5700.

(Conversation in Japanese)

Translator: Double super charge.

?: Did the Zeros have a voice radio, voice to voice radio?

(Conversation in Japanese)

Translator: Wire, _____, wires.

?: Only, no radio at all?

(Conversation in Japanese)

Translator: No. No radio.

?: (Chuckles) No radio!

Only ten more minutes and I have to—you need some help
with that?

Translator: _____ the name of pilots.

(Conversation in Japanese)

?: So I'd like to conclude it all then and...

(Taping stops, then resumes)

?: Take some pictures, it's now ten minutes to three, October 19, Tuesday, Tokyo. What area is this? Otsuka.

Translator: Otsuka. That's in the center of Tokyo, Sugamo ward.

?: Sugamo ward.

Translator: (Inaudible) Japanese _____.

(Taping stops, then resumes)

Translator: ...instructor at the community college.

?: Yes.

Translator: So you must listen very carefully to the veteran pilots
and with enough preparation and also enough time.

(Conversation in Japanese)

Translator: So don't listen just _____. Listen (speaking
Japanese). They have great authority and rank is high. But
sometimes...

?: Experience is low.

Translator: No _____. What you say,
_____?

(Conversation in Japanese)

?: Oh yes.

Translator: You are not...

?: I try to...

Translator: You are not fun.

?: Not fun.

Translator: You are the scholar. That's why you must be careful,
what he says. Now, one side of story sometimes make you
confused and make...

?: I can only take each man individually, very objective as
possible. Is it okay to have, is this his to keep?

(Conversation in Japanese)

?: That's okay.

(Conversation in Japanese)

Translator: Well, he says generally speaking, the scholar, like you, always knows one side of the story, so you must _____ deep but _____ profound knowledge. Quite important. And you must _____ not self _____, but he's just like weakness of the history must _____.

(Conversation in Japanese)

Translator: You are, because, the reason why I emphasize like that because you are not journalist but scholar, _____.

?: I'm more interested in...

(Conversation in Japanese)

?: Military history is interesting, the documentation.

(Conversation in Japanese)

(Taping stops, then resumes)

?: This ends interview with Saburo Sakai and Mr. Yoshida as interpreter.

END OF INTERVIEW